

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the second full paragraph in page 2 as follows:

The method may also include embedding a self-executing applet ~~apple~~ in the computer readable content, and producing the applet ~~apple~~ such that the applet ~~apple~~ contains the instruction codes.

Please amend the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS as follows:

In drawings which illustrate embodiments of the invention,

Figure 1 is a pictorial representation of a system for encouraging users of computer readable content to register, according to a first embodiment of the invention;

Figure 2 is a tabular representation of portions of an applet ~~apple~~ to be used in the system shown in Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a flowchart of an invocation portion of the applet ~~apple~~ shown in Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a flowchart of a connection establishment portion of the applet ~~apple~~ shown in Figure 2;

Figure 5 is a flowchart of a key response portion of the applet ~~apple~~ shown in Figure 2.

Please amend the first full paragraph in page 7 as follows:

Effectively, the content provider 12 writes records, or otherwise acquires computer readable content it intends to provide to users. The computer readable content 24 might be of the type which is distributed to users by sale, in stores, on portable computer readable media such as

a floppy disk, CD-ROM 22, or DVD® for example, or by distribution of the content using an IP protocol network such as the Internet. However, prior to finalizing the content for distribution, or during development of the content, for example, instruction codes 26 are embedded therein. This may be accomplished by incorporating the instruction codes 26 into an applet ~~apple~~, such as a self executing Java® applet ~~apple~~ embedded in the program such that the applet ~~apple~~ is automatically executed when the content is executed, if it is functional descriptive content or such that the applet ~~apple~~ is automatically executed when the content is accessed, if it is non-functional descriptive content. The content and embedded applet ~~apple~~ can then be burned onto a CD-ROM 22 or recorded on a floppy disk, for example, or may be made available for distribution on a communications network such as an IP protocol network operating as an intranet, or internet, for example. In general, any of the aforementioned modes of distribution may be used to provide to a user computer the computer readable content 24 and instruction codes 26 embedded in the computer readable content 24.

Please amend the first full paragraph in page 8 as follows:

If, for example, the content 24 is provided to the user on a CD-ROM 22, the user inserts the CD-ROM 22 into a receiver, such as a media reader 27 the user computer 14 and performs the usual operations to invoke the program. This may include, for example operating a user input device at the user computer to execute a run command offered by the operating system of the user computer 14. In this embodiment, the operating system may generally be any operating system which has a Java® Virtual Machine that supports Java® applets, where the instruction codes according to this embodiment are provided as a Java® applet ~~apple~~. Alternatively, specific

versions of the instruction codes may be provided in languages such as C or C++, where the operating system does not support Java®. The operating system may be Windows 98.RTM. for example, in which case execution of the run command invokes the Microsoft program utility which will load the content and embedded applet ~~apple~~ into operational memory for execution and use by a processor circuit 28 of the user computer 14. The program utility also launches any functional descriptive content, e.g., any program, causing it to be executed by the processor circuit 28 and also launches the instruction codes 26 for simultaneous execution by the processor circuit. Effectively, by launching the instruction codes 26, the user computer 14 executes instruction codes embedded in the computer readable content 24, when the content is in use by the processor circuit 28, to automatically cause a communications interface 29 at the user computer 14 to establish a connection to the server 16 through a communications network 31 such as the Internet, to transmit registration information to the server and to control subsequent use of the content by the processor circuit in response to a key received from the server. This communications interface 29 may include an Internet browse to support such communications, for example.

Please amend the first full paragraph in page 9 as follows:

Referring to FIG. 2, in this embodiment, the instruction codes 26 are provided in an applet ~~apple~~ having four main portions including a measurement portion 30, an invocation portion 32, a connection establishment portion 34 and a key response portion 36. The measurement portion 30 includes instructions for directing the processor circuit 28 to produce a measure of use of the content by the processor circuit. In one embodiment, this may involve

monitoring the number of bytes used in a designated folder maintained by the functional portion of the content. For example, if the functional portion maintains a document folder in which documents produced and edited by the user are stored, the measurement portion 30 may monitor the number of bytes attributed to this folder to produce a measure of the number of bytes that have been produced in response to user activity.

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 9 and 10 as follows:

Referring to FIG. 3, the invocation portion of the applet ~~apple~~ is shown generally at 32, as a plurality of blocks of code, each of which serves a function as depicted by corresponding labels associated with each block. A first block of codes 42 directs the processor circuit 28 to communicate with the measurement portion 30 to determine a measure of the use of the content 24 by the user. A second block 44 directs the processor circuit 28 to determine whether or not the amount of use exceeds a pre-defined threshold amount and if the usage of the program has not exceeded the pre-defined threshold, no action is taken. However, if the usage has exceeded the pre-defined threshold, the connection establishment portion 34 shown in FIG. 2 is executed.

Please amend the second full paragraph in page 10 as follows:

Referring to FIG. 4 the connection establishment portion of the applet ~~apple~~ is shown generally at 34. Effectively, the connection establishment portion 34, where appropriate, checks to see if an internet connection is active, establishes an internet protocol connection with the server, launches a browse session with the server uniform resource locator stored in the applet ~~apple~~ pointing to a user registration page permitting a user to enter registration information and

cooperates with the key response portion 36 shown in FIG. 2 to determine whether or not the user has been sufficiently warned of impending deletion of files for failure to register and deletes files where such sufficient warning has occurred.

Please amend the third full paragraph in page 10 as follows:

Referring back to FIG. 4, the determination of whether or not the user has been given sufficient warning that files will be deleted is made by a first block of instructions 50 which interact with a warning counter maintained by the key response portion 36 of the applet ~~apple~~. Effectively, as will be seen below, the key response portion 36 maintains a count of the number of times a warning about file deletion is presented to the user.

Please amend the first full paragraph in page 11 as follows:

If at block 50 the processor circuit 28 determines that the pre-defined number of warnings have not been shown to the user, the processor circuit is directed to continue execution with the remainder of the connection establishment portion 34 of the applet ~~apple~~.

Please amend the paragraph spanning pages 11 and 12 as follows:

The remainder of the connection establishment portion 34 of the applet ~~apple~~ includes block 54 which directs the processor circuit 28 to communicate with a task manger of the operating system to determine whether or not a communications session has already been established with at least one device, on a communications network. This may be done by using known methods for determining whether a browse session is active or pending, for example. At

block 56, if a communications session has not been established, the processor circuit 28 is directed back to block 54. If a communications session has already been established however, block 58 directs the processor circuit 28 to create an IP connection to a uniform resource locator (URL) pointing to a user registration page hosted by the server 16, and to launch a browse session at the user computer 14 to permit the user to provide registration information to register as a user of the computer readable content. The processor circuit 28 is then directed to the key response portion 36 of the applet ~~apple~~.